

What is claimed is:

1. A method for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising the steps of:

(A) receiving, at an e-mail control at a local server, a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

5 (B) storing, by the e-mail control, each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages, in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server;

(C) storing, by the e-mail control, a message identifier for each e-mail message, in a message identifier storage at the local server; and

(D) determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has
10 been deleted from the external e-mail server, and if so, then deleting the e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage of the local e-mail server.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising performing steps (A), (B), (C) and (D) for at least one next external e-mail server.

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3. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step, responsive to a user command, of providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes
20 storage for e-mail associated with other users.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of determining includes comparing message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.

5 6. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of the local server connecting to the external e-mail server, as the user.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a step of requesting, from the external e-mail server, e-mail messages for the user.

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining step includes comparing the message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to the message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

15 9. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the determining step includes comparing the message identifiers in the message identifier storage to the message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.

10. A method for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising the steps of:

20 (A) a local server connecting to an external e-mail server, as the user; and requesting e-mail messages for the user;

(B) receiving, at an e-mail control at the local server, a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from the external e-mail server;

(C) storing, by the e-mail control, each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages, in a consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users;

5 (D) storing, by the e-mail control, a message identifier for each external e-mail message, in a message identifier storage at the local server;

(E) determining whether an e-mail message in the consolidated e-mail storage has been deleted from the external e-mail server, including comparing message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server; and if so, then deleting the e-mail message from the consolidated e-mail storage;

10 (F) responsive to a user command, providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user; and

(G) wherein steps (B), (C) (D) and (E) are performed for at least one next external e-mail server.

15 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the determining step includes comparing the message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to the message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

20 12. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the determining step includes comparing the message identifiers in the message identifier storage to the message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.

13. A system for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising:

(A) an e-mail control at a local server, for receiving a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

(B) consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages;

5 (C) message identifier storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, a message identifier for each external e-mail message; and

(D) the consolidated e-mail storage having at least two states, including a first state having at least one e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server; and a second state having no e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server.

14. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein there are provided a plurality of external e-mail servers having e-mail messages for the user.

15. The system as claimed in claim 13, including a user command for providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user.

16. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users.

20 17. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.

18. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the local server is connected to the external e-mail server, as the user.

19. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the e-mail messages that are received from 5 the external e-mail server, are e-mail messages for the user.

20. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to the message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

21. The system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to the message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.

22. A system for synchronizing e-mail messages for a user, comprising :

(A) an e-mail control at a local server, for receiving a plurality of e-mail messages addressed to the user, from an external e-mail server;

(B) consolidated e-mail storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, having each e-mail message of the plurality of e-mail messages;

(C) message identifier storage at the local server, accessed by the e-mail control, a message identifier for each external e-mail message;

(D) the consolidated e-mail storage having at least two states, including a first state having at least one e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server; and a second state having no e-mail message which has been deleted from the external e-mail server;

5 (E) wherein there are provided a plurality of external e-mail servers having e-mail messages for the user;

(F) a user command for providing e-mail messages from the consolidated e-mail storage, to the user;

(G) wherein the consolidated e-mail storage includes storage for e-mail associated with other users; and

10 (H) wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to message identifiers in e-mail received from the external e-mail server.

23. The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers of e-mail on the external e-mail server to the message identifiers in the message identifier storage.

24. The system as claimed in claim 22, wherein the state is determined on the basis of compared message identifiers in the message identifier storage to the message identifiers of e-mail in the consolidated e-mail storage.